

AUSTRALIAN

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

JOURNAL

VOLUME 2 #1

AUTUMN 2012

FEATURING:

// Subsurface construction safety

// First aid at construction sites

// Testing for alcohol and illicit drug use in Australian workplaces

LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

[ARE YOU PLAYING TO THE NEW RULES?]

On 1 January this year, the independent statutory agency Safe Work Australia's new Model Work Health and Safety Regulations came in to effect with each state and territory government agreeing to implement the first stage of Model Codes of Practice so that work health and safety laws, including Regulations and Codes of Practice, across all States are uniform and harmonised.

A survey conducted for the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement identified the changes required within each state to enable compliance with the new regulations. The table shows key areas where "considerable change" is anticipated in the area of Hazardous Work and Plant and Structures:

HAZARDOUS WORK	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA
Noise						•
Hazardous Manual Tasks		•				
Confined Spaces			•			
Falls	•					•
Electricity - RCDs				•		
PLANT & STRUCTURES						
Plant		•				•
Plant Registration			•			•

Hierarchy of Control

Under the new harmonisation laws, the limit of 2m was replaced with a legal requirement to "minimise the likelihood of a fall from any height". As a result, ladders and platforms lower than 2m that may have been excluded in the past will come under close scrutiny.

Wherever it is reasonably practicable to do so, controls at the top of the hierarchy must be implemented before consideration is given to implementing lower order controls. The control selected needs to be appropriate for the particular task.

Control Levels are described as the following:

Control level One Eliminating the need to work at height is the most effective way of protecting the safety of workers. Consider how work can be done at ground level.

Control Level Two Roof safety mesh, guard railing, perimeter screens and temporary work platforms provide a safe working area for the duration of the job and is designed to prevent a person from falling.

Control Level Three Work Positioning including industrial rope access systems that enable a person to be positioned and safely supported at a work location for the duration of the task being undertaken at height plus travel restraint that prevents the user from approaching an unprotected edge on a building or structure.

Control Level Four A fall-arrest system including industrial fall arrest nets, catch platforms or safety harnesses.

Control level Five Ladders need to be used primarily as a means of access to or egress from a work area. Ladders can be used when it is not reasonably practicable to use a higher order control measure.

Administrative controls Systems of work or work procedures that help to reduce the exposure of employees to fall hazards. It is essential to involve contractors and other workers in the development of administrative controls. Other administrative controls may include permit systems, no go areas and safe work procedures.

When considering what fall prevention system to adopt, it's important to not only consider the hierarchy of control measures but also the future costs associated with the system components. Ferno Australia is able to advise and supply a carefully selected range of Higher Order control products such as guardrail systems, plant platforms, internal pull down ladder systems and skylight covers.

Ferno Australia provides a complete Roof Safety & Industrial applications fall prevention technical service from initial consultation and design, installation, training and certification. Ferno's experienced roof safety specialists work with you to establish a strategy to implement the control measures to meet Australian standards, Safe Work Australia strategies and your budgetary costs.

For further information, visit: www.ferno.com.au or phone 1800 804 647





Free Standing Modular Guard Rail

This counter weight edge protection system was designed to overcome areas where water proofing or structural penetration may be an issue. The system is designed for permanent handrail edge protection applications - however its design means it is easily relocated due to its grub screw tube clamp connectors.

- Manufactured and designed to AS1657-1992 loading and deflection requirements
- No on site welding or bending required
- Suitable for mineral felt and single ply membrane roofs
- Modular tubular system packs flat for convenient transportation and installation



SURFACElok Permanent Roof Anchor FWESL

The Ferno SURFACElok is a unique, versatile anchor system made from stainless steel for durability, longevity and aesthetic appeal. Its unique design makes it compatible with most roof profiles and structures and incorporates a built-in fall shock limiter which allows 360 degree work access.

- Quick and easy to install permanent anchor
- Tamper evident, inspection tag with serial number provided with each SURFACELOK
- Supplied with ANCHORsafe Fall Shock Limiter which swivels 360 degrees for uninterrupted work access
- Supplied in kit form, ready to install



Hi-Safe LS25 Ladder Bracket HS-LS25

The Hi-Safe LS25 Ladder Bracket is available for use with parapets and gutters. Both versions provide a simple and secure ladder mount preventing ladders slipping from either parapet type structures or structures with exterior gutters. The design allows ladders to be tied off for increased safety & security.

- Suits most ladder profiles and types
- 3mm alloy anti slip substrate
- Alloy substrate makes on-site drilling easy
- Integrated tie-off cable which can slide through or wrap around the rung
- Design protects the parapet or gutter from damage
- Access sign is easily attached

